A TRUE AND GENUINE

ACCOUNT

OF THE

LIFE, TRIAL and EXECUTION

OF

JAMES BOLLAND,

Late Officer to the Sheriff of Middlesex,

Who was Executed at Tyburn, March 18, 1772,

FOR FORGERY.

CONTAINING,

I. An Account of his Birth and Education.

II. Sets up the Trade of a Butcher. His Method of cheating St. Hospital.

III. Commences Sheriff's Officer. His cruel Manner and Art of extorting Money from his Prisoners.

IV. His Practices of deceiving the Courts of Justice, and procuring Jew-bail for any Sums.

V. His putting his Prisoners into Houses, in order to defraud Tradesmen.

VI. His marrying a rich Widow at the Fleet, and his Treatment of her afterwards.

VII. His artful Impositions on the Credulous and Unwary.

VIII. His Attempt to purchase the Place of City Marshal.

IX. His Behaviour under Sentence of Death, and at the Place of Execution.

EXHIBITING

A great Variety of notorious Villainies, Frauds, Deceits and Impositions, which he committed in Conjunction with his Followers and Dependants: Whereby the Public will be sufficiently cautioned against the Artifices of Spunging Houses, Bailiffs, and their Followers.

WITH A FRONTISPIECE,

Being a striking Likeness of the Criminal.

THE SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR; and Sold by R. RICHARDS, at his Lottery Office, No. 44, near Bartlett's Buildings, Holborn; T. PEAT, at Temple Exchange Coffee-house, Fleet Street; J. Swan, opposite Norfolk Street in the Strand, and the Pamphlet Shops at the Royal Exchange. 1772.

THE LIFE OF JAMES BOLLAND.

WHEN a notorious villain is brought to condign puniſhment, and has ſuffered the ſentence of the law, an exhibition of his life may be of great uſe to the public. For hereby we are made acquainted with the ſeveral ſteps and gradations of vice and immorality, and diſcover the riſe and progreſs of bad principles and vicious habits, till they arrive at the moſt diabolical heighth of wickedneſs, that human nature depraved is capable of. Another advantage, no leſs important, that may accrue to ſociety, from an attentive peruſal of ſuch kind of memoirs, is, that by obſerving and tracing the various methods, which theſe abandoned miſcreants take, to injure and prey upon the honeſt and undeſigning part of mankind, we are inſtructed how to guard againſt, and enabled to fruſtrate their wicked ſchemes and machinations.

Thus much we thought proper to ſay, by way of introduction to a life wholly ſpent in the practice of all manner of villainies, without the poſſeſſion of one virtue to recommend him; as will appear from the following Narrative.

JAMES BOLLAND was a butcher by trade, and was born, as one account publiſhed of him ſays, in ſome town in the country; but in another we are told, that the midwife handed him into the world in the year 1727, in the pariſh of St. Olave, Southwark. His father dying while he was yet but a child, the whole care and expence of bringing him up lay upon his mother, who ſupported him and herſelf by making children's toys for the ſhops; and as a further help kept a chandler's ſhop, and lent money to poor poople at eaſy rates.

James, being arrived at the age of fourteen, was bound apprentice to a butcher; and no great complaint was made of him during that ſervitude. His appren-

ticeſhip being expired, he married the daughter of a publican, who kept the Nine Bells in St. Mary Overy's church-yard. In ſome time after the father and mother of the young woman retired, and put *Bolland* in poſſeſſion of the houſe and buſineſs; but in about a year's time failed, and was obliged to quit it.

But as *Bolland*'s roving temper was not to be confined to one woman only, he ſoon got acquainted with one *Sarah Blake*, a fiſh-woman in the Borough-market; and as ſhe had a great regard for him, and did not want money, ſhe proved the beſt friend he ever had, and ſupplied him with money to take a butcher's ſhop, which he did at the corner of Falcon Court, oppoſite St. George's church in the Borough, and for ſome time ſeemed to be in a good way of buſineſs; but his vices, which now became apparent to his neighbours and cuſtomers, ſoon leſſened his credit. However, he continued in this ſhop three or four years, during which time he ſerved St. hoſpital with meat; and it is ſaid, that in the courſe thereof, he defrauded that charity, by having procured a wooden weight, which in appearance reſembled a metal one of fifty-ſix pounds, though it really weighed no more than ſeven pounds, and in weighing ſome hundred weight of meat, this falſe one was uſually put into the ſcale, ſo that in each cargo of proviſions, the hoſpital was defrauded of forty-nine pounds. He employed a journeyman in his buſineſs, who ſeeing him cheat the hoſpital, and ſeveral captains of ſhips in the ſame manner, thought himſelf warranted to cheat him in return; a diſcovery of which being made to him by his nephew and apprentice, *Bolland* upbraided the journeyman with it, and in conſequence thereof, the man retaliated upon him his behaviour to the hoſpital, and ſeveral captains of ſhips, &c. and vowed revenge. A few days after the boy before-mentioned was found hanging in the bedchamber where he and the journeyman lay; which was made known by the journeyman's coming down at day-light to his maſter's bedchamber, and telling him that Jem had hanged himſelf; upon this he went up ſtairs in his ſhirt, and found the boy hanging in his belt to the ſtaple within the bed-head, and no higher than would admit him to be on his knees, having only his ſhirt on. From this circumſtance *Bolland* ſuppoſed

the journeyman to be the perpetrator of the fact. The above quarrel between the maſter and man, and the untimely death of the boy, cauſed *Bolland* to leave off his buſineſs, and commence ſheriff's officer.

But though Mrs. *Blake* had been thus kind to *Bolland*, there are people who poſitively affirm, that within theſe ſix months laſt paſt he arreſted her, on a bond he had formerly extorted from her, and lodged her in Wood-ſtreet Compter. Upon which ſhe procured a habeas corpus, and was carried before lord *Mansfield*, who ſent her to the King's Bench. Having continued here for ſome time, and impatient of confinement, ſhe gave *Bolland* her gold watch, and ſeveral pieces of plate, by which means ſhe obtained her liberty.

By this tranſaction with St. Hoſpital, *Bolland* entirely loſt his credit, and finding none either with the carcaſe butcher or faleſman, he found it abſolutely neceſſary to quit that buſineſs and think of ſome other; and knowing he had every requiſite to qualify him for the office of a bailiff; ſuch as inhumanity, lying, cunning, prevarication, double dealing, and ſuch like notable talents, he reſolved upon this expedient, and had no doubt of ſucceſs in the very honourable and lucrative employment of a ſheriff's officer. Accordingly he applied to the ſheriff of Surry, who admitted him, after giving the uſual ſecurities, into that office. And as *Bolland* had before had many occaſions to be acquainted with the gentlemen of that profeſſion, he was not long at a loſs how to conduct himſelf in this new employment.

But before we open the ſcene of action in his new capacity, we ſhall relate a fact that happened ſome time before he became an officer, which gave a notable ſpecimen of his artful management. He went into the country, bought goods of ſeveral perſons, but paid for none, and coming to town, threw himſelf into a goal, took the benefit of an act of inſolvency, and returned to his former buſineſs. His country creditors, who knew nothing of this laſt tranſaction, and having given over their debts as loſt, hearing he was in his ſhop again, arreſted him in ſix actions in one day. Upon which he ſued them all, and recovered damages for falſe impriſonment.

We now proceed to give an account of his conduct in office. His firſt care was to accommodate himſelf with a houſe fit for his purpoſe, where he might conveniently lodge his priſoners. It happened at that time a ſpacious houſe at the lower end of Falcon Court was to be let, he took it, and entered upon it immediately; and as a wife was as neceſſary a piece of furniture as any he ſhould want, he married a ſecond, though his firſt wife was, and ſtill is living in Bermondſey workhouſe.

His houſe was ſoon furniſhed and fitted up as a ſpunging-houſe, and here he brought his priſoners, that is, ſuch as had money; as for thoſe that were poor and moneyleſs, he little regarded; his principal aim was to fleece thoſe who could pay well for a little civility; and if their money laſted were welcome to ſtay the long vacation, till the return of the writ; and then if they went to priſon, he parted with them with great reluctance.

As gaming had been always his favourite amuſement, he determined to make it turn to ſome account among his priſoners; and having a large yard, he contrived ſeveral little diverſions for their entertainment, ſuch as ſkittles, marbles for taw, &c. and at night he had cards ready in the houſe to ſupply their place, and took care to make himſelf a party in their games, and being better verſed in the ſcience of tricking than themſelves, was always ſure to be the gainer; and if he happened to be diſcovered in his roguery, and the injured party began to talk loud, his only anſwer was, Sir, if you don't like it, you have nothing more to do, but to priſon inſtantly. This put an effectual ſtop to their murmurings, and to avoid the horrors of a priſon, were infinitely greater ſufferers in a ſpunging-houſe.

But though his buſineſs was very lucrative, yet his vices were ſo many, and the demands to gratify them ſo urgent, that thoſe ſupplies, great as they were, he found inadequate to his neceſſities; and having run in debt beyond his abilities to ſatisfy his creditors, he bethought himſelf of a ſtatute, and having people enough at his beck to prove him one, he declared himſelf a bankrupt, having firſt made ſure of number and value to procure him a certificate.

By this time his vile practices had rendered him so infamous, that his business fell off, and the attorneys in general being greatly offended with his conduct, employed other bailiffs. This decline of fortune affected him so sensibly, that he resolved to change the scene of his operations, and raise recruits in Middlesex; and having found bondsmen, he soon became an officer for that county, and took a house in the Savoy; and by professing his honourable intentions to do justice to his employers, and keeping much company, he at length got into tolerable business; but as vice was a kind of second nature in him, we are not to wonder if that was most prevalent in all his actions. For instance;

A gentleman, whom he accidentally met with, employed him to arrest an officer belonging to an East-Indiaman just ready to sail. The action was laid for three hundred pounds, and the plaintiff being obliged to go into the country, left the management of the whole affair to Mr. *Bolland*, promising him a handsome gratuity if he did the business. *Bolland* soon met with his man, and received the money before the ship sailed, and being on a trading voyage, she was not expected to return in less than three years.

The plaintiff, on his return to London, went immediately to *Bolland* to know the success of his affair; but was very solemnly assured, that every art had been practised to catch the defendant, but to no purpose; the truth of which the follower vouched, and swore to every thing his master affirmed.

But the return of the ship, and of the defendant, soon convinced the plaintiff how greatly he had been imposed upon, though he did not then know that *Bolland* had received the money.

Another writ was sued out, and the warrant given to another officer, and on his executing it, the party was surprized at being arrested for a debt which he had already discharged, and as an evidence thereof, produced *Bolland*'s receipt for the debt and cost. The plaintiff was thunderstruck at this treatment; but resolving to do himself justice, brought his action against *Bolland*, who bailed it, and having put the plaintiff to as much expence as possibly he could, was surrendered by his bail

bail in execution, and by a habeas corpus moved himſelf to the Fleet.

In the Fleet he became acquainted with one Mr. Robort Hol—y, with whom he was ſometime ſince engaged in a paper war, to the no ſmall diverſion and information of the public, who thereby were let into many ſecrets of great advantage to be known.

Here *Bolland* experienced many hardſhips, as he had no money he often went with a hungry belly; and being thus unable to help himſelf, much leſs aſſiſt others, all his quondam friends forſook him. The Fives-ground was his chief dependance, where now and then he picked up a little money. His wife, indeed, who was poſſeſſed of many amiable qualities, did all ſhe could for him; and for her kindneſs was always treated with ill language, and not unfrequently with blows. Indeed, his general behaviour to her, as well in as out of priſon, was very barbarous.

Among the reſt of his vices, his inclination to women was not the leaſt, as his villainies were often perpetrated to furniſh means for their extravagance. His wife often expoſtulated with him on this head; but her prudent advice or reproof was generally anſwered with abuſe or a beating. Though a bailiff he often endeavoured to ſoar above his ſtation, and imitate the great; he had his miſtreſs and horſes in keeping; he gamed, drank, and ran into all the extravagancies of the faſhionable world; and as money will admit a man into any company, we need not be ſurprized if we ſhould happen to ſee a bailiff, or catchpole, in converſation with men of quality and faſhion.

It was a great mortification to a man of his ſpirit and active diſpoſition to continue ſo long in priſon; but there he was forced to ſtay, maugre all his efforts to obtain his liberty, till an act of inſolvency ſet him free.

A few days before he was at liberty, one Mr. Weſtron, a taylor, called to ſee a gentleman who was a priſoner in the Fleet, with whom *Bolland* happened to be then in company; and underſtanding that Mr. Weſtron was a taylor, beſpoke a ſuit of cloaths of him, that he might appear decently on his enlargement. Weſtron made no ſcruple to execute his order, and delivered the cloaths, *Bolland* being diſcharged, took lodgings in Saliſbury-court.

court. Here Weſtron waited on him, and took his note to the amount of the bill. In the courſe of their converſation, Weſtron happened to mention his having a large quantity of houſhold-goods, which he had no immediate occaſion for; *Bolland* took the hint, and requeſted as a favour that he would lend him thoſe goods for a time, till he could get ſome of his own; to which Weſtron with great good nature agreed.

On receiving theſe goods, *Bolland* offered to give Weſtron ſecurity for the return of them when demanded, which the latter generouſly refuſed to take. Weſtron, however, having better conſidered of it, went to him ſome time afterwards, and deſired the ſecurity which he had offered. *Bolland* anſwered, he would readily deliver back his own goods, provided he (Weſtron) would pay him forty pounds, and that upon no other condition he ſhould have them. Weſtron, however, after this, made cloaths for *Bolland* to the value of ſeven pounds, but never could get his money, nor the reſtitution of his goods; a great part of which were ſold at *Bolland*'s houſe in Sheer Lane, ſince he was refuſed the office of city marſhal, particularly ſix chairs, which were ſold for five pounds ten ſhillings.

Being now at large, though he had no money, he was not incumbered with any debts, and took a large houſe in Sheer Lane, which he furniſhed with Mr. Weſtron's goods as above related. Freſh bonds were given to the ſheriff of Middleſex, and he once more was an officer for that county. Having greatly improved his talents while under the diſcipline and inſtruction in the college of the Fleet, he now diſplayed the vaſt compaſs of his abilities; and his former pranks were trifles, in compariſon to what he now put in practice in Sheer Lane.

He dealt with his impriſoned gueſts in this manner: inſtead of paying for every meal, as uſual, he charged each of them ſix ſhillings a day, for breakfaſt, dinner and ſupper; which muſt be paid, eat or not, or to priſon directly. A ſervant in livery waited at table, and a ſide-board of plate bleſſed their eyes.

If any body aſked him, how he thought his priſoners, already in diſtreſs, could afford to pay ſix ſhillings a day merely for eating, beſides the frequent cry of—come, won't

won't you give us a bottle of Hock or Madeira? His conſtant reply was, what is that to me? If they don't like it, they may eaſily relieve themſelves, and go to goal.

After ſome time, his friends, who had given him credit on his coming into buſineſs, ſeeing what a ſplendid figure he made, thought it a proper time to call upon him for their money. Some he cajoled with telling them fine ſtories; others, who would not take ſuch ſort of coin in payment, got part of their money; but his good friend who furniſhed his houſe, he fairly (or rather moſt baſely) chouſed out of the whole, to the amount of two hundred pounds.

But all the immenſe profits of the houſe, liquors, caption fees, and his extravagant charge for bail bonds, exacting one guinea for every hundred pound laid in the writ, though the ſheriff allows an officer to take no more than five and three-pence, however large the ſum may be; yet all theſe, with many other ways he had to get money, he was always in ſome ſcrape or other for his illegal practices; and though his character was univerſally known, yet no officer had ſo much buſineſs to tranſact as he. The verge of the court, though always held ſacred, he often violated; it was no protection to the unfortunate, if the plaintiff would give him a proper fee, tho' his raſhneſs did not always go unpuniſhed.

His ungenerous treatment of two of his moſt intimate friends, Mr. D. and Mr. L. B. about three years ago, deſerves to be known. D. had, by ſome means or other, poſſeſſed himſelf of a pocket-book, in which was a bill of thirty pounds on a gentleman of worth and character, to whom it was preſented, but refuſed payment, declaring it was picked out of his pocket. Upon which it was agreed among them to take out an action againſt the ſaid gentleman, and, on getting the money, to divide it equally between them three, ten pounds to each. Upon which they informed the gentleman, that unleſs the money was immediately paid, an action would be brought againſt him; his anſwer was he would defend it; but deſired them to leave it at his attorney's, and he would immediately bail it; but this not ſuiting their purpoſe, the gentleman was arreſted for thirty pounds. *Bolland*, to excuſe this rudeneſs, pretended ignorance

of

of the affair, and complaiſantly told the gentleman, that if detaining him would be of any ſort of prejudice, he need only leave the amount of the debt and coſt in his hands, and then he might put in bail at his leiſure, and his money would be returned.

The gentleman acquieſced, and left the money in his hands. Next day the gentleman's attorney called on *Bolland*, in order to put in bail, and have the money returned; his anſwer was; that the money paid him by the gentleman was to diſcharge the bill and coſt, and that he knew nothing of bail to be put in, and therefore would not trouble his head about it. The attorney was ſurprized; but on acquainting his client with *Bolland*'s anſwer, he aſſured him he had depoſited the money only as a ſecurity. The attorney returned again to *Bolland*, who perſiſted in the ſame ſtory. The attorney having good reaſon to doubt his veracity, demanded the bill, as he had got the money; but this was not in his power; for the bill was lodged in D's hands, who would not part with it without his ſhare of the money. The attorney finding it a juggle, moved the Court of King's Bench againſt the holder of the bill, D. the attorney L. B. and our unfortunate hero; and obliged them, not only to return the depoſit money, but to pay all coſts.

When *Bolland* dealt in horſes, he bought and paid for a ſtring in Oxfordſhire, and cheapened a mare, but could not agree about the price. However, the next morning, when he went for the horſes, he took the mare likewiſe, unknown to the owner, affirming to the ſervant he had bought and paid for her. The farmer being informed of the fact, took out a warrant, but was perſuaded, firſt to draw a bill on him in London. *Bolland* accepted the bill, but before it was due became a bankrupt. The farmer did not ſtir in it again for a great while, but underſtanding he was again in full buſineſs, he had now a chance to get his money; and getting his warrant backed in Middleſex, apprehended poor Jemmy, and took him before Sir John. He, finding he could not eſcape the iron hand of juſtice, employed his emiſſaries to ſoften the farmer, by offering his price for the mare, and alſo his expences; and thus the felony was compounded, and Jemmy again at large.

Among *Bolland*'s priſoners was a young gentleman of a good figure and addreſs, but extravagant, and had got in his taylor's debt to enable him to make a figure, in order to marry a rich widow; but being rejected, he was arreſted for the cloaths, and brought to Sheer Lane. His vices and juvenile follies had loſt him all his friends, who paid no regard to his moſt earneſt entreaties in this diſtreſs, and being reduced to his laſt ſhirt, by the repeated demands of his craving landlord, he at laſt told *Bolland*, that it being out of his power to make him any further ſatisfaction, he choſe rather to go to priſon than to ſtay any longer there. *Bolland* anſwered, he was ready to carry him to Newgate as ſoon as he pleaſed. To Newgate! replied he. To be ſure, anſwered the other, unleſs you get a habeas, for that is the county goal.

Aſtoniſhed at the thoughts of being ſent to Newgate, he diſcovered in his look the utmoſt deſpair. *Bolland*, obſerving his diſtreſs, aſſured him he might be made a man of if he would follow his advice. The young gentleman was eager to know by what means he might extricate himſelf from his preſent difficulties.

The ſcheme, ſays *Bolland*, by which I propoſe to aſſiſt you is this: ſuppoſe one was to get you a carriage and horſes, place you in a houſe, and furniſh you with cloaths and other conveniencies; in ſuch caſe I could recommend you to ſeveral tradeſmen that would give you credit for plate, jewels, wines, &c. Theſe you could ſoon turn into ready money, which would enable you to make a figure, and very probably in a very ſhort time you would be able to marry a woman of fortune, and by thus doing for yourſelf have no occaſion for the aſſiſtance of your friends.

The young gentleman gladly accepted the propoſals, and thereupon bail was quickly provided, and which *Bolland* was never at a loſs for, be the ſum what it would. The gentleman was equipt with cloaths, a ſword, and other neceſſary appendages; a chariot hired, and one of *Bolland*'s men was his footman, and at the ſame time a ſpy upon his actions. The plan being thus laid, was executed with great ſucceſs; plate, jewels, and other things of great value, were ſoon obtained from the different tradeſmen, and always immediately removed to Sheer Lane to be diſpoſed of, and

as

as a ſecurity to his bail. Many tradeſmen were thus taken in, from the character every where given of him, as a young gentleman of great fortune juſt come of age.

But this farce could not be carried on long without being blown; the bills began to come in apace; good words and fair promiſes availed for ſome time; but theſe being not made good, the creditors grew clamorous, and *Bolland* having made all the advantage he could of him, his bail ſurrendered him up to priſon, where he was ſoon loaded with a number of actions, for goods he had obtained in the manner aforeſaid, nor could he take any revenge for the injury done for the property obtained from him, for he had (as deſired) ſigned a bill and receipt for every parcel of goods, otherwiſe, *Bolland* told him, he could not juſtify his ſelling them again. The reflections occaſioned by the villainy of others, as well as his own folly and credulity, together with the irrecoverable loſs of his character and friends, made ſo deep an impreſſion on his ſpirits, that he died of a broken heart.

By this method of putting young fellows into houſes, and enabling them to make a figure, and allowing them but a trifle for their ſhare of the profits, he got a great deal of money, and his houſe in Sheer Lane was loaded with his ill-got wealth, conſiſting of cloth of all ſorts, plate, rings, watches, plated goods, pictures, wines, and every thing he could get and turn to money.

His next project was, to ſend a perſon into the country to buy goods, and draw for the ſame on an indigent tradeſman in London, one under his own clutches, and therefore not in his power to refuſe him any thing. A proper man being found out, was equipt and ſent into the country for this purpoſe. No particular goods were mentioned in his orders, for all was fiſh that came to their net.

The firſt ſcene of their operations was in Hampſhire; and how this country agent managed the buſineſs, may be conjectured from the following letter to his maſter *Bolland*, which we give only as a ſpecimen of their honeſt dealings.

" Dear Sir,

" Excellent ſucceſs this morning! I have bought " twenty pieces of ſhalloon, twelve hogſheads of beer, " beſides wine, and all of them are on the road to " London. You ſee my promiſes are not wind. Let " the bills I have drawn on L—— and D—— be ac- " cepted, and I can double the cargo before the month " is expired, at which date I drew them. If you but " keep the ſecret (for you are a curſed blab) we may " make our fortunes, and no one know any thing of the " ſcheme. I have another ſcheme in my head that will " anſwer better than any thing we have done yet. At " our next meeting I will let your know all the parti- " culars. Adieu!

" Yours ſincerely."

This trade proved very ſucceſsful for ſome time; but the fraud being diſcovered, it was knocked up.

This project failing, another came into his head, which was, the procuring of bail for perſons under arreſt; for whoever could produce the ready caſh, never fail'd of his aſſiſtance on ſuch occaſions; he had his men ready for any ſum, no matter whether it was for fifty or five thouſand pounds, they would as readily ſwear to one at the other.

As it was the ill fortune of ſeveral tradeſmen to fall under his clutches, he uſed, upon being handſomely *tipped*, to let them go on their words; but when he wanted bail for any perſon in his houſe, theſe tradeſmen were called upon to do the office, which they durſt not refuſe, if they deſired any longer to continue at large themſelves. When this method was not thought proper, he had another ſet of men for the purpoſe, whom he retained to make affidavits when neceſſary.

Two of theſe men, whom he had equipt with proper cloaths to appear in, to give bail for a pretty large ſum, having done the job, and received the price of their perjury, went to regale themſelves at a public-houſe near Covent-garden, and were there ſeized for a highway robbery, were tried, convicted and executed, and *Bolland*, as ſheriffs officer, attended their execution, dreſſed in

in the cloaths he had lent them, and which became the perquiſite of the hangman.

Among other artifices for getting money, he put in practice the following. One Mr. H——— having been ſeveral times caged in Sheer-lane; *Bolland* was perfectly acquainted with his circumſtances and connections in life. Mr. H—— had taken lodgings in Grays-Inn, and furniſhed them very genteelly, and had a good deal of property there beſides; of which *Bolland* being appriſed, ſet his brains to work in contriving a way to get poſſeſſion of them, which he compaſſed in the following manner.

In concert with his worthy colleague in iniquity, Mr. P—— an attorney, he took out an action againſt the ſaid Mr. H—— and likewiſe entered an appearance to it under the hand of Mr. J—— an attorney, whom Mr. H—— had never employed; the law was purſued to execution, of all which Mr. H—— was entirely ignorant; and when he was out of town, *Bolland* entered his lodgings by virtue of the execution, ſeized all his effects, and conveyed them to his houſe in Sheer-lane; and when Mr. H—— demanded an inventory he was refuſed; and the whole became the ſpoil of theſe two honeſt gentlemen; the Court of Kings Bench was moved againſt them, and an attachment granted, which *Bolland*, by being then in Newgate, gave him no trouble.

His cruel dealing with Mrs. G——— is of ſo atrocious a nature, that we cannot help relating it. Captain G——— going to ſea, left his wife in poſſeſſion of an elegant houſe near Groſvenor Square; during his abſence, Mrs. G——— contracted a debt of thirty pounds by a note of hand. *Bolland* was employed to arreſt her, and ſhe was brought to his houſe; but upon her giving him five guineas, ſhe was, as the phraſe is, *turned up*, *i. e.* let go. In about three days afterwards he diſpatched ſome of his myrmidons, to fetch her back again, and for her ſecond enlargement, he extorted ten guineas; and to prevent her abſconding, inſtead of a bail bond, obliged her to execute a warrant to confeſs judgment againſt her effects, and a ſham note for forty pounds was given her as a further advance on her goods; and he immediately took poſſeſſion of her effects, and proceeded

to

to a diſpoſal. The poor woman, ſeeing herſelf thus cheated, robbed and abuſed, ſet fire to her houſe, but being timely diſcovered was ſoon extinguiſhed, and the goods were all moved to Sheer-lane, and the woman committed to Newgate. While ſhe was in priſon, Captain G——— returned from ſea. How ſenſibly he was affected on this melancholy occaſion, may be more eaſily imagined than deſcribed. He behaved with the greateſt tenderneſs and affectionate concern for his wife, and gave her all the comforts in his power. In the mean time, *Bolland* began to apprehend that the captain's activity, together with the juſtice of his cauſe, would be too hard for him. To prevent ill conſequences from that quarter, he got him arreſted a few days before his wife's trial, and was brought to the houſe in Sheer-lane. Mrs. G——— was convicted, but the unparallel'd cruelties of her caſe being repreſented to his majeſty, ſhe received his royal pardon. Another circumſtance attending this affair was; one J—— H—— was a party concerned in the note for which Mrs. G—— was firſt arreſted; him *Bolland* ſtript of every ſhilling he could extort, and took his note for the reſidue, and in a few days after arreſted him again, and again ſtript him of his all.

Another inſtance of *Bolland*'s cruelty we ſhall give in the following ſtory.

Among the number of the fair ſex, with whom he was intimately acquainted, was one who had plighted her faith to a ſailor, who returning from ſea, with his heart warmed with love, and his pockets full of gold (between three and four hundred pounds) ſhe conſulted *Bolland* in what manner ſhe ſhould act on this occaſion; he adviſed her to perſuade her lover to return to ſea, for the money he had got would not do to ſet up a public houſe, as he had propoſed; and then, adds *Bolland*, you will have his money to take care of, and we will ſpend it jovially together. This advice, bad as it was, ſhe weakly followed; and ſent the ſailor back to ſea, an element much leſs treacherous than the faithleſs nymph he left behind.

Bolland having got poſſeſſion of the gold, ſoon grew tired of his miſtreſs, and even uſed her barbarouſly; which ſo provoked her, that ſhe could not forbear upbraiding

braided him with the money he had got from her; he, to prevent ſuch diſagreeable clamours for the future, got a perſon to ſwear a debt againſt her, for which ſhe was arreſted and confined in the Fleet, were ſhe ſuffered all the miſeries of want and wretchedneſs, under which having languiſhed for ſome time, ſhe died miſerably.

The ſailor returning ſoon after her death, being informed of her infidelity and miſerable end, was ſo affected that he loſt his ſenſes; but being, by proper means, at length recovered, now gets a wretched livelihood by ſkinning dead dogs and cats about the ſtreets, his diſorder having utterly diſqualified him for the duties of a ſeaman.

The attorneys of the courts at Weſtminſter were well acquainted with his rogueries by the trouble he had given them; one inſtance of which is the following. Mr. B——— an attorney in the city, employed him to arreſt Co—— P—— for one hundred pounds, which he executed, and received the money, and kept it; of which Mr. B——— being informed, ſued the ſheriff, and recovered the money, which *Bolland*'s ſecurities were obliged to make good. But *Bolland* recollecting, that he had not given the defendant a receipt for the hundred pounds when it was paid him, took out another writ againſt him for the ſame ſum; but, unluckily for him, it happened, that a perſon whom he had forgot, was preſent when the money was paid him, and ſo was obliged to put up with the diſappointment, and payment of coſts.

Mr. Wilkes being appointed ſheriff, was informed of the many tricks and frauds this notorious offender had committed, and was daily practiſing, and judging it an injury to the public, to continue him any longer in office, refuſed the renewal of his bonds, notwithſtanding all the artifices and recommendations that money could procure, were made uſe of. Mr. Wilkes was inflexible, and would not ſuffer ſuch a villain any longer to tyrannize over the unfortunate, under the ſanction of being an officer.

All his ſchemes being thus totally fruſtrated, he was ſome time at a loſs which way to turn himſelf; he might indeed have been a marſhals court officer, but that he thought

thought was too mean and infamous, even for him to accept of.

The reader, after perusing the foregoing facts, will suppose that *Belland* had, by this time, well feathered his nest, and had amassed a very considerable sum of money; and the office of city marshal being now become vacant, he imagined that such a situation would suit him very well, and as it was a place of purchase, he thought he could raise the money; besides which, he could get recommendations from several persons in trade, from the expectation of serving him with the assortments in which they dealt.

One would think it scarce credible that a man, whose character was become infamous, even to a proverb, should be admitted to pay the purchase money to the chamberlain of the City of London; yet so it was and nothing more was wanting to enter upon the office, but the approbation of the court of aldermen. But here he met with a terrible rebuff, for Mr. H——— very seasonably interposing, addressed a letter to that court, in which he displayed all his villainies in the true and proper colours. Upon which the court were unanimously of opinion, that such a man was absolutely improper for the office, and that the admitting him into it would reflect the highest dishonour on the city, and bear hard even upon their own characters as guardians of the people.

As he thought himself very sure of the place, it was a most sensible mortification to him to be thus disappointed. He made several attempts to justify himself; but the facts alledged against him were too notorious to be denied or palliated, and his defence served rather to aggravate than exculpate the charges against him; so that patience upon force was his only remedy; and to wait a more favourable opportunity to get into power, his dernier resort.

His ambition was to be in some way of getting money, no matter how, and only wanted an opportunity to employ his talents, which had never failed him in executing those execrable schemes, by which he had ruined so many helpless and unwary people; and as a serjeant at mace was about to resign, he had some notion of purchasing that place; but his character was so universally

ſally known, that even in this too he was foiled. But what mortified him more than all the reſt was his creditors, and thoſe he had defrauded, hearing that a good ſum of money was depoſited in the chamberlain's hands, attached it; this was a blow he little expected, as he thought none durſt attack him in that quarter; but his power and his credit fell together.

It has been a matter of wonder that, though this notorious culprit has been guilty of numberleſs villainies, for many of which the gallows ought to have been his reward, that he has generally eſcaped with impunity. His character was well known to Sir John Fielding, who ſome time ago warned him on the ſcore of his conduct. To which he replied, "Catch me and have me, Sir "John;" little imagining at that time that he would be caught, truſting to the chicanery of the laws in preference to their juſtice.

But though his rogueries were too numerous to find room in this pamphlet, yet we ſhall inſert the few following well atteſted facts.

About a year ago, captain D—— was arreſted for ninety pounds, and carried to Sheer Lane. After ſome time, *Bolland* offered to get him bail for ten guineas; which was accepted, and the captain ſet at liberty. Not long after, the captain called (on a ſunday) at *Bolland*'s to ſee a friend then in his cuſtody. *Bolland* detained the captain, on pretence that the ſecurity was not good, though he himſelf had procured the bail. Upon which the captain's friends ſued out a habeas corpus, and removed him to the King's Bench. *Bolland* ſold ſpirituous liquors without a licenſe; for which a friend of the captain's reſolved to puniſh him. Accordingly he went to his houſe, and called for a glaſs of Geneva, for which he paid ſix-pence. He went the ſecond time, and paid the ſame for another glaſs. He then laid his information, and received the reward due to the informer; he then waited on captain D—— in the King's Bench priſon, and gave him ſeven guineas in part of the ten which *Bolland* had extorted from him; a ſeaſonable ſupply for the captain, who was then ſtarving.

Some time ago, *Bolland* arreſted a carpenter in Weſtminſter, at the ſuit of one Sop, who then lived in the Mint, Southwark. The debtor's wife met *Bolland* at

the plaintiff's houſe, and under a pretence of talking over the affair in private, took her up ſtairs and lay with her. Sop, who was in the next room, ſaw through a hole in the wainſcot, what paſt between them. *Bolland* received the debt, but did not pay it to the plaintiff. Upon which Sop told the defendant what he had ſeen acted between *Bolland* and his wife, whereupon he took out an action; but juſt before the trial was to come on, *Bolland* paid Sop the debt, which put an end to the affair.

Not long ſince *Bolland* prevailed on a young fellow, who he knew was poſſeſſed of nine hundred pounds ready money, to become his partner in horſe-dealing. This ſum, or the greateſt part of it, *Bolland* ſoon became maſter of, allowing his partner now and then only a few ſhillings for pocket-money. In about nine months, the young horſe-dealer had not a ſhilling left, and ſcarce a ſhoe to his foot; and on applying to his partner for relief, was told, that if he did not deſiſt from his importunities, he ſhould be arreſted for twenty-five pounds, due for money lent, lodging and board.

A little before the Fleet marriages were aboliſhed by act of parliament, *Bolland* had got acquainted with a rich widow, worth about fifteen hundred pounds; and having firſt got her intoxicated, took her in a coach to the rules of the Fleet, and applied to parſon Wyat to the job; but he ſeeing the woman in that condition, firſt refuſed to read the marriage ceremony; but his ſcruples were ſoon removed by *Bolland*'s giving him a guinea. They were married, and *Bolland* took her home, and went to bed to her as his wife. In the morning ſhe was ſurprized to find a man in bed with her, and demanded who he was, and how he came there? *Bolland* told her he was her lawful huſband, and to convince her of his veracity, he demanded her keys, and ſtript her of bank notes and other valuables to the amount of a thouſand pounds. This unhappy woman afterwards worked many years in the Fleet-market as a baſket-woman, and died very poor.

A young gentleman had loſt a large ſum of money to a ſet of gamblers at Newmarket, which he refuſed to pay. They applied to *Bolland*, who was one of the gang, to arreſt him for the money; he executed their order, and

and carried the young fellow to his own houſe; but knowing the arreſt was an illegal act, he offered to releaſe him for five guineas, and the offer was accepted; but at the ſame time told him, that his creditors would ſeize his goods for the debt, and adviſed him to aſſign them over to himſelf. This was agreed to, and *Bolland* having obtained a bill of ſale, ſold the goods, and ſunk all the money.

Bolland arreſted a tradeſman in Butcher Row, without Temple-Bar, for one hundred and five pounds and ſix-pence, at the ſuit of a Jew, whom the debtor did not know. *Bolland* took him to his houſe, where the priſoner ſent for his attorney, who, on his coming, traced the Jew, and found him at a coffee-houſe in Duke's Place, from whence he was taken before the ſitting alderman, before whom he confeſſed that *Bolland* had given him a guinea for ſwearing the debt. Being aſked how he could be guilty of ſuch an atrocious crime, he anſwered, that for ten and ſix-pence, or a guinea each, he could procure an hundred Jews who would do the like.

Many other exploits of this kind might be recited to illuſtrate the character of our hero; but we believe the foregoing well known facts will be ſufficient to convince the reader, how richly he deſerved the fate that was preparing for him; which brings us to the laſt ſcene of action which finiſhed his courſe of iniquity, of which we ſhall now give a particular account.

James Bolland was indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 22d of February, for forging and counterfeiting on the back of a promiſory note, an indorſement in the name of James Banks, with an intent to defraud Francis Cardineaux, and was alſo charged with uttering and publiſhing as true the ſaid forged indorſement, knowing the ſame to be falſe, &c.

The note was as follows:

100 l. London Oct. 12, 1771.

Two months after date I promiſe to pay to Mr. Samuel Pritchard, or order, one hundred pounds, value received.

Charles Street,
Covent Garden. J. Bradſhaw.

John Leigh, clerk to Sir John Fielding, proved the note delivered to him at Sir John's houſe.

Mr. Levy, an attorney, depoſed, he got the note of Mr. Morris, at Mr. Cardineaux's, who hearing it was a forgery, ſaid he would be willing to proſecute, but deſired three or four days to conſider of it. Some time after, Cardineaux met Levy at Sir John Fielding's, where Jeſſon's evidence was taken, and informations drawn; that Levy, without having any quarrel with *Bolland*, carried on the proſecution as a friend to the community.

Jeſſon ſwore, that having buſineſs with one Lilburne, he met him at the George and Vulture tavern in Cornhill, and ſaw *Bolland*, whom he aſked to ſettle a note of fifty guineas, which he, Jeſſon, had diſcounted for him. That *Bolland* produced Bradſhaw's note, and deſired Jeſſon, as he was out of caſh. to diſcount it. The note was indorſed James Bolland; but Jeſſon telling him he looked upon Bradſhaw to be good, but that he could not negotiate it with *Bolland*'s name on the back of it; the latter told him he could take off his name, and Lilburne took up one of the table knives, and erazed all but the B, on which the priſoner ſaid, "don't ſcratch it all out, for it may diſfigure it, by making a hole in it," and then immediately wrote *anks*, which made Banks, and gave it to Jeſſon, who put it up, and the next day aſked Mr. Cardineaux to diſcount him a note of Bradſhaw's. Cardineaux ſaid he would do it on Friday, on which Jeſſon left the bill with him, but having ſome money to make up, borrowed fifteen pounds ten ſhillings of him, promiſing if he did not diſcount the bill to return it him.

On the Saturday after the priſoner came to the evidence, to know if he had done the buſineſs. Jeſſon told him he had left the note with Cardineaux. In the evening one Handſworth came to him, and told him, *Bolland* wanted to ſee him, on which he went out and ſaw the priſoner, who ſaid he was greatly puſhed for money, and that he muſt have the bill or caſh directly. Jeſſon then went to Cardineaux, and *Bolland* and Handſworth went to a coffee-houſe in Queen Street, to wait his anſwer. Cardineaux came with the evidence ſoon after to the coffee-houſe, and was introduced to *Bolland*, and while he was enquiring who Pritchard and Banks were, Jeſſon went to Cardineaux's houſe for a banker's check; and on his coming back, found the priſoner had ſatisfied Cardineaux concerning thoſe perſons, and that *Bolland* had produced another

another bill for ten pounds, which Cardineaux agreed to diſcount for him. That in taking of the note, the priſoner ſaid Banks was a victualler near Rathbone Place, and a man of good character. That Cardineaux ſaid it did not ſuit him to give *Bolland* all the money in caſh, gave his draught for forty-four pounds, and his note for the remainder of the ſum, when the note became due, except the fifteen pounds ten ſhillings, which Jeſſon paid to the priſoner. Cardineax then left them, and *Bolland* lent Jeſſon the above fifteen pounds ten ſhillings for a month, upon his note, which was paid when it became due.

A ſhort time after, when it appeared in the papers that Bradſhaw was a bankrupt, Cardineaux called upon Jeſſon and told him he muſt take care of that hundred pound note of *Bolland*'s, as his banker would probably return it to him directly. Jeſſon then went to *Bolland* at the Sword-blade coffee-houſe, where he told him the circumſtance of the note's being not likely to be paid from Bradſhaw's bankruptcy, and that he muſt take care of it. *Bolland* replied, what note are you talking of? On which the evidence deſcribed it; but the priſoner ſaid he knew nothing at all of it, and aſked if his name was on it? Jeſſon then told him no, but Banks's, and that he was anſwerable for it. *Bolland* rejoined he had nothing to do with it, and laughed and ſneered at Jeſſon, when he aſſured him he would lay open the whole matter to Cardineaux. On this they parted, and next morning Cardineaux and Handſworth calling upon Jeſſon, he diſcovered to them the tranſaction of writing the *anks*, and mentioned the improbability of Mr. Cardineaux being ſatisfied for the bill.

Mr. Cardineux declared Jeſſon came to him with the note as mentioned before; that he knew Bradſhaw very well, and on enquiring who Banks was, Jeſſon told him he did not know, but ſoon after brought the evidence an account in writing, that he dealt in wine and brandy, and lived in Rathbone Place. A few days after Jeſſon told him, that *Bolland*, whom at that time he did not know, was the owner of the note, and they met at the Edinburgh coffee-houſe, where *Bolland* aſked him if he would diſcount the bill, and gave Pritchard, Bradſhaw, and Banks, the characters of men of property, ſaying

the

the latter dealt in wine and ſpirits in Rathbone Place; that he did not then aſk *Bolland* to indorſe the bill, and was told afterwards by Jeſſon, it was better his name ſhould not be on it, as (though a man of property) he had formerly been a ſheriff's officer. Some days after, the evidence, with Jeſſon, met *Bolland* and Handſworth at a coffee-houſe in Kings-ſtreet, and upon telling him it was not convenient for him to give him all in caſh, *Bolland* ſaid he would be contented with half, and took his note at two months for fifty pounds. That Jeſſon brought him the check, as above related, and *Bolland* gave him a little bill for ten guineas, which he diſcounted alſo. Some time ago, when Bradſhaw appeared in the Gazette, the evidence accidentally meeting *Bolland* at the Hamburgh coffee-houſe, he ſaid, that the bill I diſcounted for you will not be paid; the priſoner, with an air of aſtoniſhment, ſaid, *what bill?* and on being told the bill that Cardineaux diſcounted for him, replied, "I never diſcounted a bill with you, Sir, you miſtake me, my name is *James Bolland*, I never ſaw you in my life; for you have got no bill with my indorſement.' The evidence then, having been told the circumſtance by Jeſſon, whiſpered to the priſoner, he knew who wrote Banks upon the bill; upon which *Bolland* ſaid, "make yourſelf eaſy, the bill will be paid when due."

Another time, when he ſaw the priſoner, he told him, if he was not in preſent caſh, if he had any good bill he would take it in payment; but Cardineaux could get none, and left the bill when due with Mr. Morris, and never ſaw *Bolland* ſince that time; though after he was taken, a perſon brought the hundred pound, in the name of James Banks, and the evidence gave him a receipt in that name, about the firſt of January laſt.

Upon being aſked, why he did not deliver up the bill, when the money was paid? Cardineaux ſaid, becauſe he had given it to Morris, who had delivered it to Levy, who had aſked him, if he was willing to proſecute *Bolland?* And that he replied, he would, as he thought it was the duty of an honeſt man to do ſo. The hand writing of Pritchard and Bradſhaw, was proved by Pritchard's clerk, who ſaid, the bill was a note in account with *Bolland*, and that, he did not recollect Pritchard was paid any conſideration for it.

The

The priſoner in his defence declared, he never in his life committed a forgery, with an intent to cheat any one; that the fault was Jeſſon's, not his: that at that time he had two thouſand pounds in Sir Robert Ladbroke's hands, that Pritchard owed him one thouſand pounds, that his name was good at that time, without the name of Banks, and that Cardineaux had been paid his money; but he left the reſt to his council, as he did not underſtand the caſe.

The jury found him guilty of uttering and publiſhing the bill, knowing the indorſement to be forged.

Upon his return to Newgate from his trial and conviction, he appeared ſenſibly affected with his ſituation, and ſaid he had not an intention to defraud Cardineaux, but reflected on Pritchard and others. He appeared at chapel the ſunday following; but perceiving ſeveral perſons there, whoſe faces he knew, he deſired to be excuſed coming again to chapel, and went not thither again till the day before his execution, but was viſited twice a day by the ordinary in his cell. He flattered himſelf greatly with the hopes of a reprieve, which prevented him from giving that attention to his ſituation, as he afterwards did when he knew he was ordered for execution. He inſiſted he had not wronged any perſon, and only acted in the courſe of his buſineſs as a ſheriff's officer, but owned he had done every thing he could in that capacity to get money, and believed that every perſon in that office did the ſame.

Bolland grounded his hopes of a reprieve, on a petition he had got preſented to the queen; in conſequence of which, the recorder was ſent for twice to St. James's on thurſday, and it was not till that evening that his fate was finally determined.

It appears that *Bolland*, at the time of his being taken up for the crime for which he ſuffered, had about two thouſand pounds in his banker's hands; which, however, notwithſtanding his confinement, he took care to diſpoſe of, that it might not be forfeited to the ſheriffs; for the balance in his banker's book, was afterwards found to be no more than a few ſhillings due to him.

Wedneſday morning, juſt before *Bolland* left the preſs-yard, an acquaintance brought him a glaſs of hot wine, which he accepted, ſaying, I have ſeen many

called

called out of the world this way, but never thought it would have been my fate.

On Wedneſday, March 18th, at ſeven o'clock in the morning, he went to chapel, and received the holy communion, as he had once before done ſince his trial, and was in the courſe of his attendance very compoſed, and ſaid that he was within the letter of the law to die, but in this inſtance of his conduct he was not intentionally guilty, though he acknowledged that he had done other things for which he had deſerved death. He was aſked, whether he was concerned in the hanging of his nephew and apprentice? His anſwer was, that to ſcreen his ſervant who had been privy to his own acts of injuſtice, he had a coroner's jury to ſit upon the body of the boy, who, from the circumſtances that were laid before them, brought in their verdict lunacy, and he had the body privately buried; and that he blamed himſelf for conniving at that affair, and to the laſt moment denied his being privy to, or concerned in the hanging of the boy, who he again ſaid was his nephew, whom he took as his apprentice out of a charity-ſchool.

He was then put in a cart and conveyed to Tyburn, attended by the two ſheriffs, the under-ſheriff, and a great concourſe of people. He behaved with great compoſure of mind, and declared at the place of execution, that he never robbed man, woman, or child, in his life-time. Two perſons on tueſday-night ſet up with him in the cell, as he declared he never would be hanged.

His behaviour in his way to, and at the place of execution, was ſerious and devout, and in the cart he knelt down and ſaid the Lord's prayer, and offered up ſome ejaculations himſelf. The ordinary then prayed with him, and afterwards aſked him, if he had any thing to make known to the world, that he had hitherto concealed from him? To which he replied, that he had declared the truth to ſuch queſtions as he had aſked of him, and would do ſo to any others he ſhould put to him; that he was reſigned to his fate, and wiſhed only to live ſo as to have made ſatisfaction to every perſon that could make any claim on him, for injuries received from him. He was about forty-ſix years of age.

FINIS.